Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 4 to 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/252,584 filed November 24, 2000. The subject matter of this application is related to the disclosures in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/398,028 filed September 17, 1999, by G. Braudaway, P. D. Howard, P. V. Kamesam, H. E. Sachar, F. C. Mintzer, C. W. Wu, J. M. Socolofsky, S. W. Smith, and C. P. Tresser for "Method and System for Remote Printing of Duplication Resistant Documents" and U.S. Patent Application No. 09/398,029 filed September 17, 1999, now abandoned, by C. Mengin, H. E. Sachar, M. Martens and C. P. Tresser for "Method and Apparatus for Secure Sale of Electronic Tickets". Patent Applications No. 09/398,028 and 09/398,029 are assigned to a common assignee herewith and their disclosures are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 7 to 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Illegitimate signature protection is mostly about protecting against copying a signature from one check to another check (for instance after stealing or finding a blank check). An often used protection against copying human signatures is to recognize that a signature is perfectly identical between several (two or more) checks. Especially in digital form, it is easy to change slightly the shape and position on the check of a signature in order to defeat this protection, but then the fine print to be covered would be different. Thus, for better protection, the fine print in the signature area will preferably change from check to check. For better protection, one might also consider the fine print covering the sensitive areas to comprise signatures of the form ~~Sing(X)~~ Sign(X) and the more secret Sec(X).